

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and claim 3 amended to include a newly added feature indicating that each of the signal input components has a control circuit for setting a recording mode.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. 5,838,393) in view of Simpson (U.S. 5,838,393) and Marshak (U.S. 4,524,452).

The present invention is a component selection control system in which a turner (2), CD (3), taper recorder (4) and MD (5) each have there own audio output circuit (21, 31, 41 and 51) with their own on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54). In addition, the tape recorder (4) and the MD (5) have their own audio input circuit (42 and 52). A control circuit (22, 32, 43, and 53) indirectly controls the operation of the on-off switches (23, 33, 44, 45, 54, and 55) based on input from control circuit (15) which receives input from input unit (14).

Washikawa describes an audio signal processing device in which a single function change-over switch (21) is used to select between playback audio signal contact pieces (11P-14P) connected to terminals (11-14). In addition, recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R) are connected to signal processing circuit (22). No switch is described for switching between recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R). Still further, control bus contact pieces (11C-14C) are connected to a

connection switch unit (32) to enable sequential time division multiplexing with the micro-computer in the audio appliance connected to terminal units (11-14).

Washikawa et al. states in column 4, lines 35-48

“In this case, the connection switch unit 32 is comprised of connection switches 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d prepared for the respective terminal units independently, and can connect sequentially each of the switches 32a to 32d in a time division manner under the control of the system controller 31. In other words, the connection state of the switch 32a, the connection state of the switch 32b, the connection state of the switch 32c, and the connection state of the switch 32d are repeated sequentially to perform the communication in a time sharing fashion with a micro-computer of an audio appliance connected to each of the terminal units 11 to 14. Under the communication state in this case, data is transmitted bidirectionally in time division in accordance with a predetermined rule.” (Emphasis Added)

Simpson describes an audio video control device. This device employs two switches (214 and 234). As discussed in column 3, lines 54-58 of Simpson

“The 3-bit input select signal 208 causes switch 214 to select among the four or eight output signals 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 from four or eight sources, such as video tape recorders, to generate a single source signal 232. The switch 214 comprises an 8-to-1 selector, as is well known in the art.”

Further as discussed in column 3, line 65 through column 4, line 2 of Simpson

“The single source signal 232 is input to a second switch 234 controlled by the 2-bit output select signal 210. The 2-bit output select signal 210 causes switch 234 to select among the four output signals 236, 238, 240 or 242 to four destinations, such as video tape recorders. The switch 234 comprises a 1-to-4-selector (or 1-to-8 selector with only 4 outputs), as is well known in the art.”

Therefore, switch (214) selects one of eight output signals to generate a single source signal (232) and switch (234) takes the single source signal (234) and outputs its to one of four output signals (236, 238, 240 and 242).

Marshak describes an audio mixer in which two inputs (41-44) may be selected at the same time. Specifically, as discussed on in column 2, lines 46-55 of Marshak,

“The audio mixer also has four high level inputs 41, 42, 43, and 44, whereby two of said inputs can be selected at a time with switches 45 and 46. Said high level inputs are independent of each other allowing independent selection with switches 45 and 46. Each selected input has an independent balance control 51 and 52, respectively, and each having independent volume controls 53 and 54, as well as independent cue select switches 55 and 56 and corresponding cue switch indicator lights 57 and 58.” (Emphasis Added)

However, Marshak fails to disclose that each of the signal input components has a control circuit and that at least two signal input components are set in the recording mode at the same time by control circuits thereof. In order to distinguish claim 3 over Marshak, claim 3 has been amended to indicate that each of the signal input components has a control circuit for setting a recording mode.

By including the above two features, the present invention can greatly reduce the numbers of signal lines and terminals conventionally required for the connection of components, and enables the AV signal to be recorded on a recording medium of at least two signal input components at the same time.

Therefore, independent claim 3 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record by reciting,

“A component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, a plurality of signal input components for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit having connected thereto the signal output components and the signal input components, the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components as required for audio and/or video reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered

from the desired signal output component to desired one or more of the signal input components, the component selection control system being characterized in that: each of the signal output components has a separate and independent on-off switch provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit therethrough, each of the signal input components having an on-off switch provided on a signal input line for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit therethrough, and a control circuit for setting a recording mode, the signal processing control unit having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component and a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the desired signal input component, the signal output lines of the signal output components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit, the signal input lines of the signal input components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common output terminal of the signal processing control unit, the on-off switches being controllable for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit and to select one or more of the signal input components for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit, wherein when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time, wherein the audio signal from the signal output component can be recorded on a recording medium of at least two signal input components at the same time by closing the on-off switch of said signal input components at the same time and setting said signal input components in the recording mode by control circuits thereof." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. 5,838,393) in view of Simpson (U.S. 5,838,393) and Marshak (U.S. 4,524,452) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance and allowance, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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